

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Bean et al.

Art Unit 3761

Serial No. 10/620,142

Filed July 15, 2003

Confirmation No. 8474

For ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING A STRETCHABLE REINFORCEMENT MEMBER

Examiner Jacqueline F. Stephens

DO NOT ENTER: /J.S./

2/21/07

January 22, 2007

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

Claims 20-27, 29-43, 51-65 and 70 are currently pending for consideration. The following remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated November 22, 2006.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is directed to an absorbent structure comprising an absorbent member that is at least partially made of fibers, and a reinforcing member at least partially embedded in the absorbent member for maintaining the structural integrity of the absorbent member. The reinforcing member is comprised of a first set of substantially parallel strands and a second set of strands that cross the first set of strands at junctions in a non-orthogonal relationship thereby defining openings in the reinforcing member. At least some of the fibers of the absorbent member extend through the openings in the reinforcing member and are entangled with other fibers of the absorbent member.